

SENATE BILL 2675
By Burchett

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 29, Part 2 and Title 64, Chapter 8 relative to regional transportation authorities.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 64, Chapter 8, is amended by adding the following sections as a new part thereto:

Section 64-8-201. There is hereby established a regional transportation authority in the counties of Anderson, Blount, Grainger, Jefferson, Knox, Loudon, Roane, Sevier and Union. The regional transportation authority shall be a body corporate and politic, shall be governed and managed as provided for in this chapter, and shall have the powers and duties provided for by this chapter and other applicable provisions of the law.

Section 64-8-202.

(a)

(1) The authority shall be governed by a board consisting of:

(A) The county mayor of each county included within the authority;

(B) The mayor of each town which is a county seat and the mayor of each incorporated municipality with a population of four thousand (4,000) or more according to the 2000 federal census or any subsequent federal census located in a county included in the authority;

(C) The commissioner of transportation or the commissioner's designee; and

(D) Six (6) persons residing in the included counties to be appointed by the governor.

(2) The ex officio members shall serve during their terms of office and the appointed members shall be appointed to five-year terms, and may be reappointed.

(3) The appointed members shall be persons representative of and knowledgeable concerning mass transit operations or service.

(b) The board shall elect a chair and such other officers as it may deem necessary.

(c) The board shall meet at least annually and may meet at any time on the call of the chair or upon request of a majority of the membership.

(d) Any ex officio member may designate a representative who shall be entitled to vote and fully participate in the actions of the board.

(e) Actions of the board shall require an affirmative or negative vote of a majority of the total membership of the board.

(f) The board may establish through bylaws an executive committee and such procedures and rules for its operation as it may deem necessary.

(g) Members of the board shall serve without compensation, but appointed or designated members may receive reimbursement for necessary travel expenses from funds available to the authority.

Section 64-8-203. The board may employ such personnel or contract for professional planning, engineering, management, operating, and support services as it may deem necessary from funds available to it. The board may also utilize services or assistance from any included county or municipality, including the loan of personnel.

Section 64-8-204. The board shall develop a plan for providing mass transit services in the authority. Such plan shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) Establishment, location or relocation of transit routes;
- (2) Areas to be served;
- (3) Frequency and method of service;

- (4) Coordination of existing services;
- (5) Contributions by governments in the service area toward the cost of transit services;
- (6) Contracting or entering into agreements with existing entities to provide transit services or may establish and operate such services directly;
- (7) Sources and methods of funding existing or expanded services;
- (8) Provision of special services for disabled persons or other persons unable to use regularly scheduled and equipped services;
- (9) Provision of services for special events or occasions; and
- (10) Any other provisions necessary or desirable to establish a coordinated, reliable, scheduled regional service.

Section 64-8-205. The board may solicit, accept and expend grants, appropriations, contributions or other funds from any source, public or private, and maintain an accounting of such receipts and expenditures, subject to audit by the comptroller of the treasury.

Section 64-8-206. Any department or agency of the state or any county, municipality, or metropolitan government included in the authority may, upon request of the board, provide any services or assistance to the board in preparing a plan or in organizing its operations.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-29-227(a), is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

- () Regional transportation authority, created by § 64-8-201

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it